

# Virginia Department of Historic Resources

## PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

<b>General Property Information</b>	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 053-0342
Property Name(s): <u>Brown Farm</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1800</u> Circa   Pre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post	Open to Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Property Address: <u>38340 Winsome Trail Lane</u> City: _____	Purcellville      Zip: <u>20132</u>
County or Ind. City: <u>Loudoun</u>	USGS Quad(s): <u>Purcellville</u>

<b>Physical Character of General Surroundings</b>	
Acreage: <u>14.50</u> Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor	
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: 1 single-family dwelling 1 spring/springhouse 1 board and batten barn 1 loafing barn	
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: The springhouse is of the same architectural style as the house and is in excellent condition. It is a two-story structure with the lower level containing the spring, which is still running. Water emerging from the spring runs along the floor and exits through a hole in the foundation. The upper level was used likely used for curing meat and storage of other perishable supplies.	
Ownership Category: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

<b>Individual Resource Information</b>	
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...	
<u>Single-family dwelling</u>	
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) _____	
Architectural style or elements of styles: <u>Quaker built stone house</u>	
Architect, builder, or original owner: <u>unknown</u>	
# of stories <u>2</u> Condition: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilt <input type="checkbox"/> Renovated	
Are there any known threats to this property? <u>no</u>	

### Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

**Foundation:** Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete. The foundation is dry stacked stone. It is accessible by a short set of stairs from the exterior. There is no interior access to the basement. The foundation is in good condition. In addition to the door there are three window openings. The chimney on the west elevation of the house is exterior to the foundation wall, but the stone beginning at mid-height of the west wall to support the mantel above.

**Structure:** Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known. The exterior walls are made of dry stacked field stone with lime mortar. The interior walls are plaster, directly applied to the inside surface of the stone. Window openings are spanned with a wood header. The three door openings are spanned with stone headers.

**Walls:** Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles. Field stone and lime mortar.

**Windows:** Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced? The windows are original, double-hung wooden and still operate. The windows on the first floor are 9-over-6 light, 8x10 glass in the upper sash and 6-over-6 light, 8x10 glass in the lower sash. The windows on the second floor all 6-over-6 light in both the upper and lower sashes. All windows are original.

**Porch:** Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details. The front porch is support on wing walls projecting from foundation and extends across the entire south elevation. The framing and deck surface is wood. There is a wood roof structure protecting the deck that has a finished wood ceiling and metal roof covering.

**Roof:** Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material. The roof shape is a gable and is covered with asphalt shingles.

**Chimney(s):** List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible. There are two chimneys. The chimney on the west elevation projects outward from the plane of the exterior wall and gradually narrows as it extends to point above the roof line. There is a single fire place on the first floor that is served by the chimney. The chimney on the east elevation is integral with the exterior wall, projecting into the interior. There is a flue opening in the basement, a fireplace on the first floor and a flue opening on the second floor served by the chimney.

**Architectural Description of Individual Resource:** *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated)*

The architectural detail is consistent with the Quaker style used in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Most notable are the two doors that enter from the front porch into the left and right half of the first floor. The house stands proud on the south elevation, where the basement is nearly 1/3 above grade. The door on the left enters into what is believed to have been the informal family gathering space where meals were cooked in the large open fireplace. The room is open from the front wall to back wall, where there is another, more rustic door leading to the exterior. The door on the right leads into a room that divides the right half of first floor into two equal spaces. There is a door adjoining these two spaces and a door from each space into the room on the left half of the first floor. All doors are believed to be original, including the door hardware. Much of the woodwork has been returned to its original finish by the removal of multiple layers of paints. The right front room also contains a built-in bookcase that appears to be original to the structure. The rear room contains a small fireplace. All floors are wood. The floors on the right side of the first floor are original and exposed. The floor on the left side of the first floor has been over-laid with a wood floor.

There is a closet stair leading from the left side of the first floor to the second floor. The flooring is original, as are the bedroom doors and exterior windows. There has been some remolding of the second floor in order to make the space function in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In all cases, care has been taken to retain the original look and feel of the space. There is a door to leading to the attic, although the space is not habitable. Some new flooring has been installed in the attic, since the original flooring was used to patch areas in the second floor.

**Significance Statement:** Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

The house is the birthplace of Susan Koerner (Wright), mother of Orville and Wilbur Wright, inventors of the airplane. Since purchasing the property in 1997, we have had many visitors interested in seeing Ms Koerner's birthplace stop and ask to take pictures. There have been numerous articles written and one high school project that included a discussion on this aspect of the property's history. Ms Koerner is a significant person in the history of the aviation and it was likely her mechanical talent that influenced Orville and Wilbur to work with their hands

In private correspondence from Stuart Nixon dated October 7, 2003, the following partial explanation of the property's history is provided.

"Based on the material I found at the Balch Library, it appears that Philip Frye (or Fry) purchased a tract of 79 acres from Thomas Stephens in 1812 and lived there until his death in 1824, at which time he left it to this daughter, Catherine Frye Koerner. Since the will was not probated until 1831, there may have been some kind of legal dispute (friendly or unfriendly) concerning the title. In any event, Catherine and her husband John sold the land to William Brown in 1832 and moved to Indiana. As you will recall, the map we looked at shows a "B. Brown" at the location of your farm. Other people named Brown are also shown living near the railroad tracks. In 1932, when Orville Wright was corresponding with Leesburg attorney Wilbur Hall, the land was known as the Weadon estate and adjoined property owned by Mercer Love (presumably the "M. Love" on the map) – hence the confusion over where Susan Koerner (picture below) was born in 1831.



The property was actively farmed until it was subdivided in 1997, at which time it consisted of nearly 200 acres. A wonderful bank barn is shown in some of the early pictures, but it burned-down in the mid-1960's. The milking operation survived the fire and a new milk house and milk parlor were constructed and kept in operation until sometime in 1970. Since that time, the fields have been farmed to produce hay, soybeans and corn.

**Legal Owner(s) of the Property** (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐ Kenneth & Elizabeth Bland

(Name)

(Firm)

38340 Winsome Trail Lane

Purcellville

VA

20132

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

deerspringfarm@hotmail.com

703-727-8478

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 07-09-2015

**•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••**

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone: ( )

**Applicant Information** (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

(Name)

(Firm)

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notification**

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for the department to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐

Robert Wertz, Jr.

Commissioner of the Revenue

(Name)

(Position)

Loudoun County

1 Harrison Street, S.E. Fifth floor #32B

(Locality)

(Address)

Leesburg

VA

20175

703-777-0260

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

**The property deserves to be evaluated because it is representative of the Quaker Stone House construction found in Loudoun County, VA during the late 1700s and early 1800s. It meets the historic criteria in the categories of Architecture, Significant Person's Birthplace and Agricultural Importance.**

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes ☒ No ☐Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes ☐ No ☒